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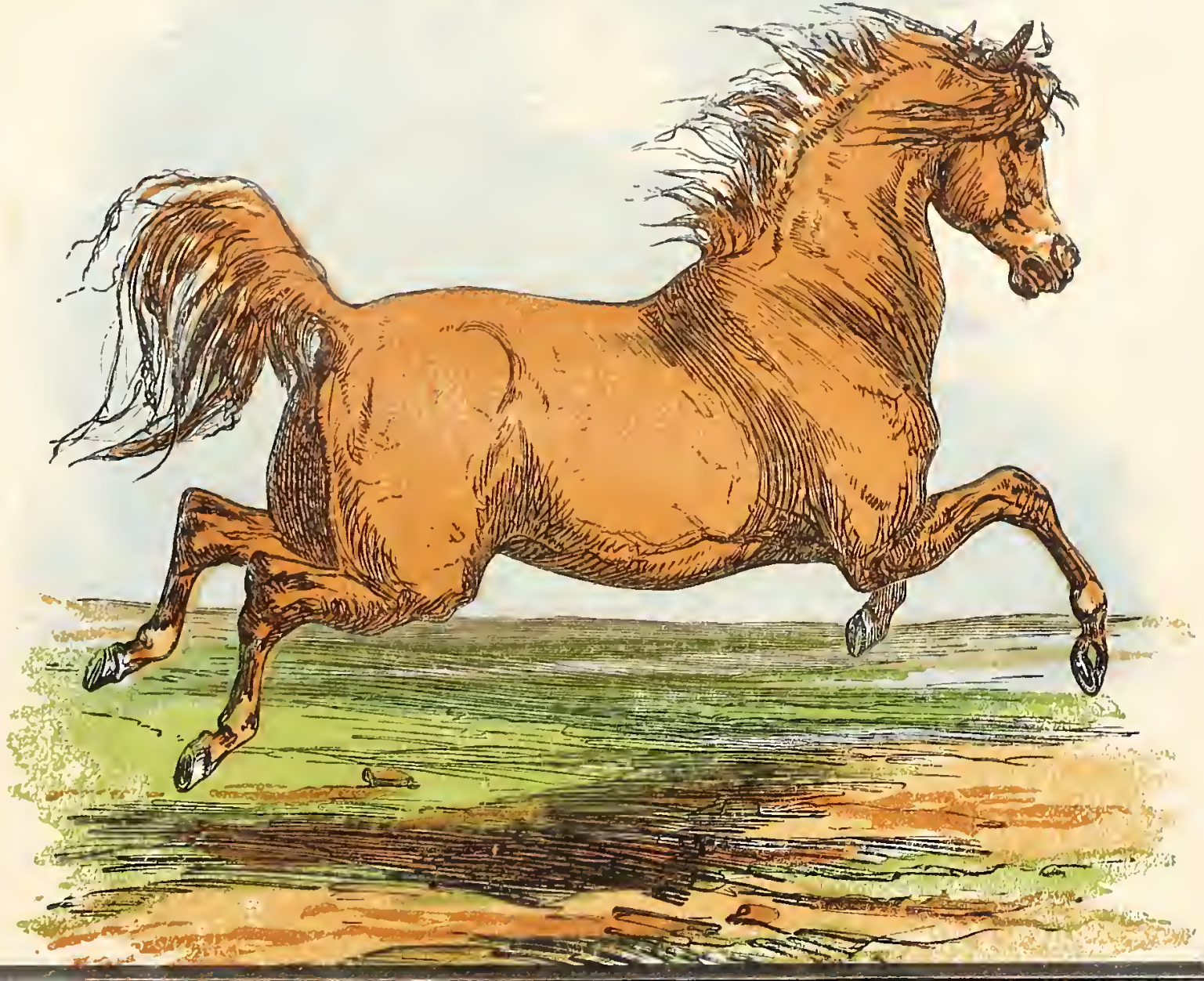

MAMMA'S

STORIES ABOUT ANIMALS.

LONDON:
DARTON AND CO., 58, HOLBORN HILL.

1853.

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THE HORSE.

This is the most useful of all domestic animals, and, when kindly treated, becomes so faithful and loving to its master as to deserve the name of his friend.

There are now no wild horses in Europe; but in Asia, Africa, and Spanish America, they may be found in herds upon the grassy plains. Those in Asia abound amongst the Russian Tartars, who catch them for their flesh or skins, or to ride upon, by means of a long rope with weights, which they fling

over the poor beast in such a way as to entangle his legs and throw him down. These horses are mostly a sort of dirty cream-colour. The African horses are darker, with short tails and manes. Those from Barbary were once very fine. The wild horses in America are descended from those left there by the Spaniards, as, before that time, there were none in the New World.

The horse, the ass, and the zebra differ from the cow, the pig, and many other quadrupeds, in the form of their hoofs, which are not divided or cleft. And the horse differs from the ass and zebra in the shape of his hoof, the sole of which is round, whilst theirs are oval.

Wild horses, who range about on soft grass, do not require shoes; but those which are used by man really want them, for the strong iron keeps the horny sole of the foot from wearing out, as it soon would do on our stony roads. The bit and the bridle are also wanted, that the horse may know which way to go; but the spur is a cruel thing.

The Arab horses are very beautiful, and are loved so much by their wandering masters as to be allowed to live in the tents with them, like members of the family.

In England the horse is often sadly ill-treated. And it makes one's heart ache to see this sensitive creature, whose pulse will rise many beats in a minute if he is spoken

to with harshness, used as if he had no feeling. To a well-trained horse a word or a touch will be enough, and to please a kind master this generous animal has been known to exert itself till it has dropped down dead.

The horse has, like the camel, the power of scenting water at a great distance, and can thus in the desert often save the life of his fainting rider.

The English race-horse is the most beautiful of all. But though he can run very swiftly, he is not strong. The hunter, used for hunting stags, hares, and foxes, is able to bear more fatigue. There are also carriage, and cart, and dray horses, in all varieties.

The latter are very large and powerful, and proud enough their drivers seem to be of them as they pass slowly through London streets.

In the islands of Zetland there is a very pretty little race of ponies, some of them not above thirty-two inches high. These are much used by little boys and girls who are learning to ride. They are very shaggy, and as tame as dogs. Horses which are used by soldiers soon grow quite fond of martial music, and in time of battle will often rush into the combat as if they shared their master's thirst for victory, and had no fear of danger.

When young, their age may be known by

looking at their teeth. After death, the horse's body is only fit for cats' and dogs' meat. But the hair is valuable, and every one knows how useful the long, shining, black hairs from the tail and mane are when woven into a sort of coarse cloth for covering chairs and sofas.

I could tell you plenty of stories about the horse if I had room for them. Sir Edward Astley had a mare called Phenomenon, who once trotted seventeen miles in fifty-six minutes; and I remember hearing of another who was said to have run a mile in one minute. But it is not only for its swiftness the horse makes itself dear to its owner: it is also sagacious and very faithful.

A gentleman in Germany was once riding home through a wood on a dark night, and struck his head so hard against the branch of a tree, that he fell down stunned. The horse went back directly to the house which they had lately left, and which was now shut up, for the family had gone to bed, and pawed at the door till somebody rose and opened it. He then turned about, and the servant in wonder went after him, when the faithful and intelligent creature led him to the place where his master lay senseless. There was once a race-horse called Chillaby, so fierce that scarcely any one dared to go near him, and he once tore in pieces a stuffed figure of a man that was put in his

way. Yet this savage animal had for a pet companion a lamb that used to butt away the flies from his sides. And a story is told of a barb that was fondly attached to a cat, who always nestled by his side or sat upon his back. And he would lift her gently in his mouth upon his hay, without hurting her. This affection was mutual, for when the barb died, the cat refused its food, and pined away almost directly.

THE COW.

THERE is not one little boy or girl who cannot tell how gentle and how useful is this good creature. And she is to be found in every quarter of the world, that all may share the benefits she can bestow. It is thought that cattle were first taken to America by the Spaniards, but they now so abound there that vast quantities of their hides or skins are exported to other countries for leather. In India, the native cattle are called Zebus, and are very beautiful, though they have a

hump growing between their shoulders, which gives them a strange appearance. They are more active than our cattle, trotting and galloping like horses, and are used, like them, for riding, drawing chariots, and carrying burdens, being guided by a cord or bridle passed through their noses. In Switzerland there is a very beautiful race of cows, and the kind treatment they receive makes them appear far more sagacious than the poor ill-used animals that are often driven through the streets of London. The Swiss herdsman hangs bells round the necks of some of the most trustworthy cows, that they may keep the herd together, and let him know where they are. Some of these

bells are larger and gayer than others, and are fastened to prettier trappings. These are worn by the best or favourite cows, who are very proud of their bells; and if, for a punishment, they are not allowed to wear them, they will bewail it with piteous lowings. On gala days a sort of procession takes place, when the herdsman leads the way, and is followed by the cows in order, the favourite going first with the grandest collar and bell, and the others wearing smaller ornaments. The cows all know their places in these processions, and will quarrel fiercely with each other if any change is made. There was once a Swiss cow, who had long been her master's pride,

and always headed the herd. But, on one occasion, she was ill at the time of a procession, and it was thought she was too weak to lead the cows, or even to carry any bell. So she was amongst the last of the herd, as they began their march with tinkling bells and gaudy trappings. But the poor cow felt that she was not in her right place, and her heart sunk at the loss of her usual honours; so, after a few feeble steps, she stopped, and in spite of all the efforts that were made to cheer her on, down she lay upon the ground as if to die. An old herdsman guessed the cause of her sorrow, and going to the house, he brought out his gayest collar and bell, which he fastened

round her neck. Directly the sick cow felt this she sprang to her feet, and leaping about like a happy dog, she bounded to the head of the procession, and took her usual place. Nor did she show any signs of illness afterwards.

The mountain peasants call their cows home by playing upon long wooden pipes. The sound is very sweet when heard at a distance, and a lovely air, called Ranz des Vaches, has been made from it, which will bring tears to the eyes of a mountain Swiss if he hears it in a foreign land.

In Spain there are great forests where herds of cattle stray almost wild. The largest and fiercest bulls are caught here and brought to the cities to *amuse* the people by bull-fights.

In these fights the poor bull is attacked by men called Picadores, who are armed with short darts. In Rome, too, bulls are often baited by dogs. But all this is very cruel, and we will say no more about it, but turn to the true *uses* for which God has given us cattle. Of these milk is the greatest, at least in England. The Asiatics use mares' milk, and in China scarcely any milk at all is drank; but what should we do without it? When milk is allowed to stand for some time, the cream, which is the lightest part of it, rises to the top, and being skimmed off can soon be made into butter by shaking in a churn. We read of butter being made so long ago as five hundred years before

Christ. Cheese is made by mixing acids with milk, which make it coagulate or cohere together. Runnet, or part of the stomach of a young calf, is used for this purpose. There are many kinds of cheese. The red is coloured by dye. But I must also tell you of the ways in which cattle are of service to us after their deaths. Their flesh is called beef, and that of their calves veal. Their skins are tanned into leather, for shoes, boots, and book-binding. Their horns are made into combs, and their fat into tallow, whilst glue is prepared from their hoofs. Parchment is made from the skin of calves, for lawyers to write upon and little boys to cover their drums with.

THE ASS.

This dull-looking creature is too often sadly abused by those to whom he is willing to render great services. The ass is naturally neither dull nor perverse. But he always seems as if his spirits were broken by the state of slavery to which he has been brought. There are wild asses in Asia, which range about in vast herds, and they are quite famous for their swiftness and for the keenness of their senses. They feed on the scanty plants of the desert, rather than ven-

ture near the rich grassy plains where they might be attacked by man. But even in the desert they are not safe from him, for the wandering Tartar tribes hunt them for their skins and for their flesh, which they think a great delicacy. Sometimes, too, pit-falls are dug in order to take these wild creatures alive, that they may be used as beasts of burden.

The Persians hunt them with great grey-hounds trained to the chase. Their skins are beautiful, varying from brown to silver grey. The wild ass is often spoken of in the Bible. "Who hath sent out the wild ass free? whose home I have made the wilderness, and the salt land his dwellings. The

range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing." Asses are also spoken of in the Scriptures continually with horses and oxen, as being used like them for riding or carrying loads. But in warm countries the ass grows to a greater size, and seems brighter and happier. He is also taken more care of, and in Asia Minor, Persia, Syria, and Arabia, as well as in Spain and the North of Africa, is fed and groomed in the same way that horses are amongst us. So he is almost a different animal there. In Cairo, rows of saddled asses may be seen standing for the conveyance of travellers and their luggage, just as cabs are in waiting in our streets..

The ass is very sure-footed. He can walk on a dangerous path with much more safety than a horse could do, and in the rocky passes of the Andes he is often used like the mule, to carry travellers through dangers that it would be almost impossible to meet but for the help of this good creature. When he comes to a rocky descent he gathers all his four feet together and slides swiftly down in the most courageous and steady way. And the traveller's only safety is in trusting him perfectly, for if he were to pull the reins, or try to check him, most likely both would fall down the dreadful precipice.

The ass in this country is sadly degraded.

He is mostly the property of poor people, who make use of him just because he will eat food that a horse would scorn, and therefore may be kept more cheaply. And they repay this patient submission to hard circumstances with ill treatment and cruel blows. No wonder he often looks miserable and unhappy. But if kindly used and well fed, even our domestic ass becomes gentle and lively, and fond of his master. Asses' milk is very good for people in a decline. It is very nourishing. The skin of the ass is all of him that can be made use of after his death. I ought to tell you that his long ears are given him by God as a provision for the wild state in which he was formed at

first to live. For in the wide desert they are of infinite use in collecting the lightest and most distant sound, being very flexible or easily turned.

I must tell you a story of an ass, that will prove him to be very intelligent when called upon by circumstances to exert his energies. A gentleman named Captain Dundas was going from Gibraltar to the Island of Malta, and went on board a ship, taking his ass Valiante with him. The ship having got some distance struck on the sands, and the ass was thrown over-board to give it a chance of swimming to land, though the sea was so rough that a boat putting off from the ship was lost. However, although

the Point de Gat, where the ass must have landed, was full two hundred miles from Gibraltar, yet the faithful creature, having succeeded in getting to land, found its way through a most mountainous and intricate country which he had never passed through before, and arrived a few days after being launched from the ship, in perfect safety at the gates of Gibraltar, and thence to the very stable from which he had been taken to accompany his master. It was proved, too, from the short time he had been on the road, that he could not have made one false turning.

THE DOG.

I AM almost afraid to begin talking to you about the dog. There is so much to be said of his usefulness and goodness, and my mind is so full of stories that I should like to tell you, to show how true a friend and faithful a servant he is to man.

And then there are so many kinds of dogs, all valuable in their different ways. The grey-hound, the stag-hound, the fox-hound, and many others used in hunting. The mastiff, who is so good a guard, that at night,

when every one is snug in bed, he may be trusted to watch over the safety of his master's house, and if not strong enough himself to catch and hold any intruder, will by loud barkings call some one to his aid. Then what would the shepherd do without his sheep-dog, that ugly rough creature, with scarcely an inch of tail, that does more than half his work for him in driving home the flock? The Newfoundland dog that you see in this picture is also very intelligent, and is so good a swimmer and diver that he is often known to save the life of a drowning person, for he has much more web or skin between his toes than other dogs. Spaniels are chiefly kept as pets; but

there are many varieties of spaniel, and some are used by sportsmen. In America there are packs of wild dogs; but they may easily be tamed, and soon grow attached to their masters. The Australian dog is also found wild in New South Wales, and is called by the natives Dingo. He is like a large shepherd's dog, and does not bark, but utters a mournful howl. This dog is less easily domesticated than any other, and is a sad fellow for worrying sheep. The Esquimaux dogs are used by their masters to draw them in sledges over the frozen ground. The dogs are harnessed two and two, and will run with the greatest swiftness fifty or sixty miles in a day. In Siberia, too, and Green-

land, dogs are used in the same manner. These dogs feed on fish, and in summer are frequently turned loose to provide for themselves till the returning frost makes their services once more necessary.

But of all others the dog of Mount St. Bernard is one that deserves to be noticed and remembered. Mount St. Bernard is amongst the snowy mountains of Switzerland, and it happens often that large masses of snow, called avalanches, roll down these mountains, and bury travellers from the light of day. Now there is a convent of good monks on Mount St. Bernard, who devote themselves almost entirely to help those who may be so unfortunate as to suffer from such

a calamity. And they are most ably assisted by a race of large powerful dogs, who are called after the name of the mountain. They are somewhat like very large spaniels, and have so keen a scent that they can detect or find out a body, even if buried several feet below the snow. They will scratch away the snow with their paws, and howl till some of the monks come to help them. These dogs have so much sagacity that they may be trusted out alone to discover poor travellers, and will carry flasks of brandy and cloaks tied about their necks for the help of any one they may find. There was one good creature that saved the lives of twenty-two people, and had a medal of honour fastened

round his neck, and I have no doubt he fully enjoyed this distinction. Another named Barry saved forty lives, and being then worn out in the service of his humane masters, they sent him to die in peace away from the snows of the mountain, and he may still be seen stuffed in a museum at Berne, with even the collar and flask he used to carry round his neck. Dogs are very sensible of praise and blame, and those who have not been used to harsh treatment will obey a word more readily than many a little boy or girl. In hot weather they ought to be well supplied with water, and never teased, as they are subject to a most dreadful sort of madness, at which time their bite is fatal.

THE HOG.

Now look at this picture, and whilst you do so, try and put out of your minds every thought of the poor pig that has anything to do with *dirt*. For I can assure you he is not by nature an uncleanly creature, and enjoys a fresh bed of dry straw as much as the horse and the sweet-smelling cow can do. It is those who shut him up in a small stye, which they will not take the trouble to look after properly, that ought to be called dirty, rather than the pig.

True, he does love to roll himself in the wet mud sometimes on a hot summer's day; but this is to cover himself with a thick coat that will keep off the bites and stings of insects, which he has neither hair nor tail long enough to prevent. So we will only think of him now as a useful and very good sagacious beast in his own way. There are wild hogs in Europe, Asia, and Africa; and there is an animal very much like them in America, called a peccary.

The wild hog feeds on herbs and roots, which his strong sense of smell and touch enable him to find out under ground. Then he digs them up with his large tusks. He will also eat eggs, and is not afraid of ve-

nomous snakes. He likes to dwell in shady places, and comes out in the evening to find his food. Though very strong, he hurts no one but in self-defence, and will not fight if he can help it, but goes back to his hole. Yet, when in danger, he grows very fierce, and his terrible tusks make him a powerful enemy. In Russia, Poland, Germany, and Spain, wild boars, as the male hog is called, are still hunted with dogs and killed by boar-spears in the forests. The female always hides her young for some time after their birth, as the boar is so strange a father that he often tries to kill them. And the young ones repay their mother's love with strong affection, and she may often be seen

followed about by several of her families, those that are quite grown up as well as the little creatures that are still dependent on her care.

When shut up in styes, hogs change very much. The tusks, which would no longer be of any use, are not found in the domestic pig; and the ears, which in a wild state are made to catch every sound, become less flexible.

The pig is fond of those who are kind to him; and in the peasant's cabin, where he lives with his master, he is gentle and sociable. He can also be taught to perform tricks; and we are told of a sow who was trained by a gamekeeper to point at game.

She delighted in the sport, and was almost as steady as the best pointer dog.

In Calabria, in Italy, where hogs graze in herds, the keeper, when he wants to collect them together to their homes at sun-set, plays upon a sort of bagpipe, at the sound of which they run trooping to his feet. In some villages, the people all put their hogs under the care of one swineherd, who blows a horn in the morning to call his grunting flock to their pasture; and at evening, when it is time to go home, the same sound brings them rushing back, and they will, on returning to the village, go each to their own stye without a mistake.

In some of the Southern United States,

hogs are often turned loose into the woods to feed themselves, and once a week are gathered together for a favourite meal of salt or maize. These intelligent creatures, without any voice to call them home, will all assemble on the very day, and even at the very hour, for their treat, without one exception.

Pigs are therefore neither stupid nor insensible to kindness. They are also fond of each other, and if one is wounded, the others will gather round and lament with him. The pig seems to know when a storm is coming, and will run about with straw in his mouth, as if to prepare himself a shelter. The flesh of hogs is called pork;

when salted and dried in smoke, it is ham and bacon. Their fat, of which they have a great deal, is melted into lard, and their bristles are used for brushes.

THE STAG.

THERE are many different kinds of stag. Those which are known in England are kept in parks; and their flesh, called venison, is thought very nice eating. From their horns, which they shed every year, many useful things are made. Their horns are not hollow, like those of the cow and

goat, but formed of solid bone-like substance, which, when it first appears on the stag's head, is soft and tender, but hardens as it grows, till it becomes a powerful weapon of defence.

The Elk or Moose Deer is common in America, and the Indians use its skin for their mocassins and other parts of their dress. The Wapiti is also another very large American stag. The Fallow Deer and Red Deer are well known in England, and the pretty Axis or Spotted Deer. These poor animals are often hunted by dogs.

But the most useful of all the different kinds of deer is the Rein-deer of Lapland. This, though naturally a wild creature, is

taken and tamed by the Laplander, wherever it is found, that he may add it to the herds which make up his chief wealth. The colour of the rein-deer is brownish-yellow when he first sheds his coat, but afterwards it becomes almost white. He has very thick hair, so thick that it is impossible to put it aside so as to see his skin. His face and nose are covered with a very hard skin, in order to preserve him from injury when seeking under the snow for the white lichen, on which he feeds. The ground is sometimes covered for miles with this lichen, and, dry as it appears, it is a good and nourishing food for the deer. The Laplanders use the milk of the rein-deer, and make it into

cheeses. The flesh of this animal is delicious food. Its skin is most valuable as a covering, being almost impervious to cold; that is, cold can scarcely get through or penetrate it. And in North America, where this animal is found amongst the Esquimaux and Greenlanders, it is said, that clothed in a dress made of the skin of a rein-deer, and wrapped over all in a blanket, a man may pass a night in safety on the frozen ground. But during its life, the rein-deer is of the greatest use to the Lapps, as the people of Lapland are called, both as a beast of burden, and as a means of communication across countries which, to any other animal, would be impassable. Harnessed to

a sledge, the rein-deer will skim over the frozen ground with the greatest swiftness, and carry a weight of nearly three hundred pounds. There is a story told of one poor rein-deer, that was used to carry an officer with important papers in the year 1699. It ran eight hundred English miles in forty-eight hours, and, sad to relate, dropped down dead as it reached the end of its journey. As some amends to the poor victim, or rather to gratify the vanity of its cruel master, the portrait of this deer was painted, and may still be seen in the palace of Drotingholm, in Sweden. Journeys of one hundred and fifty miles in nineteen hours are said to be frequently performed by these

valuable creatures, which are kept in herds by the Lapps, just as an English farmer feeds flocks of sheep. But the rein-deer is the only treasure of these hardy people, and we have many different animals to supply our wants or minister to our luxuries.

THE GOAT.

The goat is an animal very much like the sheep in appearance, but is covered with a mixture of wool and hair, while the sheep has only wool. The goat is also a stronger and wilder creature, and is fitted by nature

to dwell rather on rough and rocky places than on the smooth downs so pleasant to a sheep. His hoofs are large, widely cleft, and sharp at the edges, so that he can fix himself on the points and sloping sides of rocks. In fact, his foot fixes on their points and edges in the same way that the wheels of the railway carriages do upon the sleepers of the line, which I dare say you have often observed.

There are a great many goats in Switzerland, where they will spring from one precipice to another with wonderful skill. In Wales, too, they abound amongst the mountains. But there are not so many wild goats in Europe as there used to be, for they have

been hunted everywhere. Neither sheep nor goats were found in America; but there is a wool-bearing antelope, which in some degree supplies their place. In Africa there are vast numbers of very fine goats, which are exceedingly like sheep; and on the coast of Guinea there is a peculiar race of very pretty *little* goats. But in Asia these animals are more beautiful than anywhere else, and have been turned to greater profit by man; for in Europe they are killed for their flesh, or kept only for their milk, which is rich and good. But in some parts of Central Asia there are goats which yield a constant supply of very fine soft wool, which is made into highly valued shawls. It is from Thibet

that the best wool is brought, although the shawls are mostly made in Cashmere; but the climate of this latter place is rather too warm for the growth of much wool, which is a provision of nature for the goat in cold weather, as the Eastern seasons are at one time extremely cold, and afterwards extremely hot. The wool falls off in summer, and is easily removed from the long hair under which it grows by combing. It is then spun and dyed, and afterwards made by hand into shawls. Four people, or if the shawl is plain only two, sit at a frame, and work with numberless needles. A fine shawl takes a year or more to make, so it is not surprising that they are so costly. In Cash-

mere alone, it is thought 30,000 are made every year. They are used by nobles in the East, and are wonderfully soft and beautiful. Efforts have been made to keep these goats in France and England, that they might supply us with materials for these shawls; but owing to the difference of climate, and our not having a range of snowy mountains, the goats produced very little wool.

The goat is very strong, and will attack an enemy boldly. His horns turn back, but the points project outwards; so, if he wishes to hurt very much, he throws his head violently sideways against the offenders. The Arabs teach their goats a curious trick; viz., to balance themselves on the top of a wooden

cylinder. The goat will stand with all his four feet safely planted together on the point.

Goats are often used to draw children in chaises, and seem quite to enjoy doing so. I heard of two little children who once ran away from their nurse, and jumping into their goat chaise, which stood at the door, set off, whip in hand, all down the Strand. And although this is such a crowded part of London, and the people in the street did all they could to stop the goat, yet he seemed quite to enjoy the fun, and would not allow any one to interrupt him, but carried the children safely through all the dangers of the road and back again to their own home

when he and they had all had enough of the sport.

The skin of young kids is made into shoes and gloves, and is much valued. The French know better than we do how to turn it to good account.

THE DORMOUSE.

Is not this a pretty little creature?—and it is as harmless as it is beautiful. It is called dormouse, because it sleeps through the long winter months. Its house is generally at the foot of old trees, in a wood or other re-

tired place. And before it takes leave for so many weeks of the daylight and fresh air, it makes for itself a snug little nest of the slender leaves of the fir or other tree, woven curiously together. Here it hides, and then falls into a sound sleep; so sound, that if taken out of its bed, where it is curled up like a ball, it does not wake, and may be rolled along a table without showing any signs of life. If taken to a fire during its sleep, it will die suddenly. Gradual warmth will alone revive it; and, as soon as the weather changes, it will peep forth to enjoy the bright sunshine. This little creature feeds on nuts and fruits, or berries, such as it can find in its woodland home. There are many

other kinds of mice. The common field mouse is very generally known. It does sad mischief to the farmer, by gnawing the roots of his corn, and robbing his well-filled barns. The harvest mouse is the smallest quadruped we know, and is a very tiny creature. Two of them, weighed in a pair of scales, were found to be only just as heavy as a half-penny piece.

The nest of this little animal is one of the most perfectly beautiful works of art that any but the hand of man can contrive. It is made quite round, about as big as a cricket-ball, and is composed of blades of wheat cleverly platted together. The entrance to this nest is so ingeniously hidden

that it is almost impossible to discover it; and Mr. White, a gentleman who spent much of his time in watching the habits of animals, and who found one of these nests in a wheat-field, hung from the top of a thistle, tells us that he rolled it about without doing any harm to eight little helpless mice that were lodged inside it, so carefully had their mother woven their pretty cradle. The mouse found in our houses is of a different kind, and is often a troublesome neighbour. Rats are much larger and fiercer than mice. When hungry, or very angry, they will often fly upon those who attack them.

The large black rat is a most destructive creature, and it was said to have become so

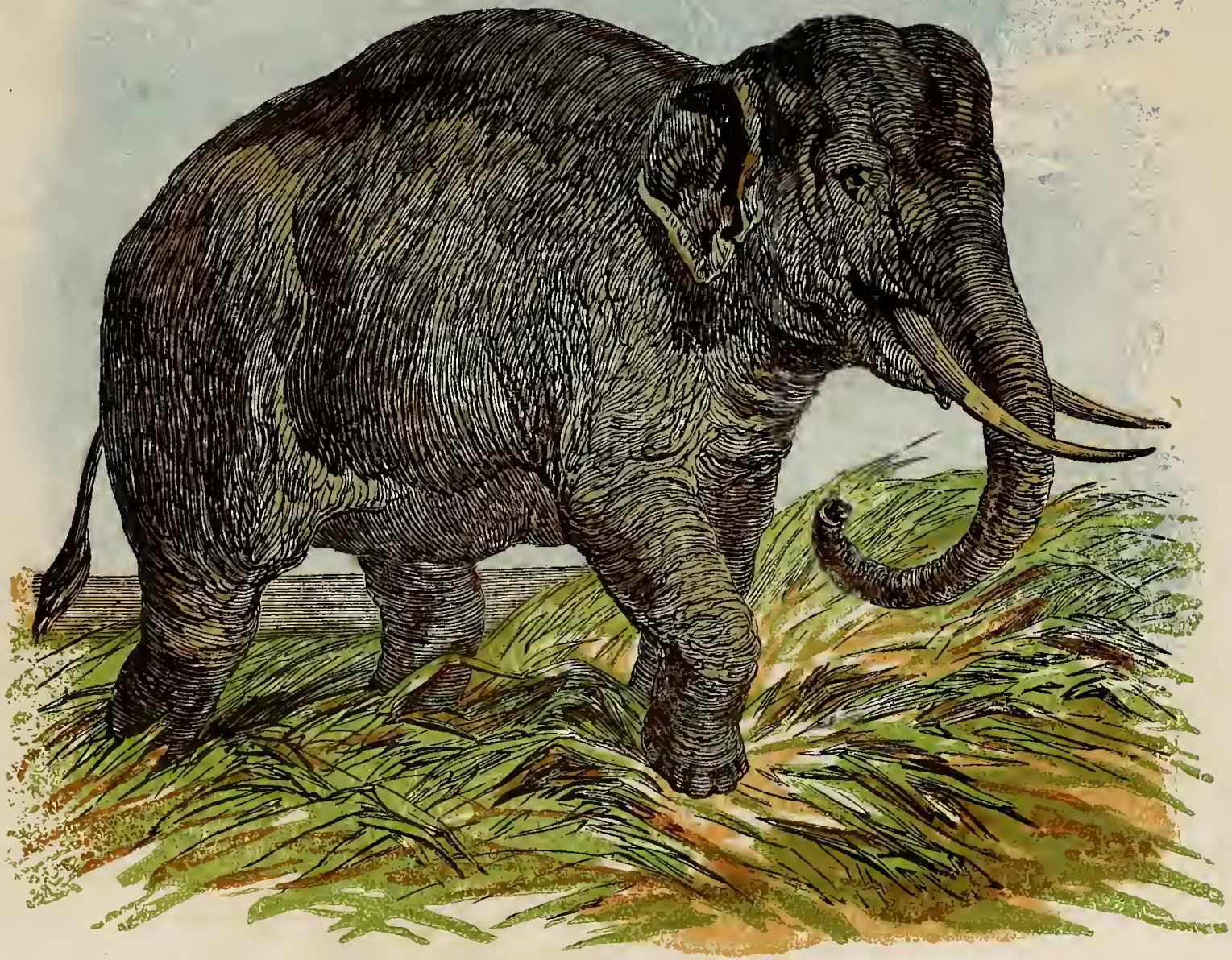
numerous and so voracious in the Isle of France, that the Dutch were obliged to leave the place. Many thousands have been killed in a year in some of the houses there. They make great hoards of fruit and corn under ground, and kill birds and poultry. They even are said to attack people when asleep. There are not many black rats in England now, as they have been driven away by the brown rat, which is sometimes called the Norway rat.

This too is a very destructive animal, and so strong that scarcely anything will hinder him from getting what he wants, even if he has to swim over a river to reach it. I dare say you have heard of some of his clever

tricks, such as dipping his tail into oil-flasks for his friends to lick, and lying down on his back to serve as a sort of waggon, when drawn by his tail, for carrying off eggs. A gentleman in Sussex once happened to witness unnoticed the migration, or moving from one place to another, of a large company of rats. They were crossing some meadows, and he distinctly saw an old blind rat led by a kind companion, who held one end of a piece of stick carried in the mouth of the infirm rat. In Southern Russia there is really a race of blind rats, the only quadruped that is so strangely made. But, to make up for the want of sight, their sense of touch and hearing is very keen.

THE ELEPHANT.

This noble creature, though larger than any other "beast of the field," is peaceful and harmless, except when attacked. The elephant is found only in Asia and Africa, and the chief difference between the Asiatic and African elephants is in the size of their ears, those of the latter being so large as to cover their shoulders. Indeed, we are told that in Southern Africa it is common to see the ear of an elephant used by the natives as a sort of truck to drag loads upon.



The elephant lives on vegetable food, and, when in a state of nature, almost entirely on the young and juicy branches of trees. He twists his trunk round the boughs and snaps them off. It was once thought that he had no teeth; but, although none are visible, it is now known that he has four large massive grinders, with which he chews his food. He has no front or cutting teeth, but in place of them two very large tusks, which he uses to defend himself with, and also to support himself when sleeping by resting himself against a tree. These tusks sometimes grow to the length of eight feet, and they supply us with ivory. It is for this that the elephant is hunted wherever it is

found, for ivory is very valuable to man. It is used in the manufacture of many articles for which no other material would serve; and in the handles of knives, ornaments, and toys, every little child has seen and admired it.

The Chinese carve ivory very beautifully. They make very ingenious balls, one carved within the other, which I dare say you have wondered over at the Chinese Exhibition. In our country, the only way by which the elephant makes himself useful to us is by giving us his tusks after death, which are imported or brought to England from India. But in his native land he is of the greatest value during his life, being

stronger and more sagacious than any other beast of burden.

The trunk of the elephant is a most wonderful organ. It is hollow, and divided throughout into nostrils. He breathes and smells through the trunk, which has a sort of little finger at the end, so delicate in its sense of touch that he can pick up a pin from the ground with it.

When the elephant is taken alive, for the service of man, he is very easily tamed, and soon grows fond of his keeper. The way of catching wild elephants is to dig a pit, and then lightly cover it with branches and grass. A tame elephant is then taught to decoy or lead a wild herd towards this spot, and the

first one falling into the trap the others flee away in great alarm; though we are told that these intelligent and affectionate creatures will often try their utmost to set their companion free, by throwing large branches and heaps of earth into the hole, in order to raise him by degrees to the surface of the ground.

Elephants were very much used in battles before the introduction of firearms, and they are still a very important part of the processions of Eastern princes, who adorn them with the richest embroidery. The elephant will carry a number of people, in a sort of little house or howdah, on his back, and at the word of command will kneel

down that they may mount more easily. He can carry a weight of two thousand pounds, and will travel fifty miles in a day. Wonderful stories are told of the sagacity of the elephant, one or two of which I must tell you. He is said never to trust his great weight on any scaffold or bridge which will not bear it. And one, who was cruelly urged to cross a bridge that he had tried with his foot and found insecure, was almost killed; for the bridge gave way before he had got over it. There was an elephant belonging to the king of Naples that liked to help the masons who were at work upon the palace, and would fetch them water from the well in great copper vessels. He had noticed that

when out of repair these vessels were taken to the brazier's, and finding that one of them leaked, he actually walked off with it of his own accord to be mended, and having waited till this was done, he took it back from the man and returned to his work. This was a good gentle elephant, and would play with the children in the streets and never injure them; but many sad tales are told, which prove that this noble animal has a quick sense of insult or wrong, and will remember and heavily revenge any wanton offences.

THE LION.

This picture will give you a far better idea of the form of the lion than anything I can say about it. The lioness has no mane. When lions are young they mew like a cat, and do not begin to roar till they are eighteen months old. There are no lions in Europe, nor in America; though the puma, a large, yellow, cat-like beast found in that country, has been mistaken for one. But in the plains of Africa and Asia they are still to be found, though not very frequently, at

least in the latter country, as they are hunted and killed on every possible occasion. The lion is called the king of beasts, perhaps from his noble appearance, and also because he is said to be generous in disposition, and not to destroy life except when pressed by hunger. But he is neither so large nor so sagacious as the elephant, and he is not of any use to man, either during his life or after his death. The lion is a carnivorous beast; that is, he feeds only on flesh: and being stronger and larger than almost every other animal, he feeds at pleasure upon those that fall in his way. The giraffe is not tall or swift enough to escape him, and one has been known to run for several

miles after a lion had sprung upon its back, but then it sunk down and could not resist him.

The lion can carry off a buffalo or a horse, just as easily as a cat will run away with a bird; for he has wonderful strength in his jaws and shoulders. His tongue is covered with rough prickles, like those on a cat's tongue, but much harder. If he were to lick your hand he would take off the skin. His feet are soft, for he dwells on sandy plains; but the bone of the fore-leg is so very strong, that he can batter in a horse's skull with one blow of his paw. I could tell you many stories of lions that have carried off men from the very midst of their compa-

nions, and, in spite of guns and dogs, borne them away to devour in secret. But I would rather tell you something that will show the lion in a more amiable point of view; for although he is only following his natural instinct in preying upon flesh, and very often kills men in his own self-defence, yet such things are very painful to talk or think about. Some years ago, a little dog was put into the cage of a lion in the Tower menagerie for his food, but he spared the little creature's life, and they lived for many years in the greatest harmony. There was also another lion, taken very young and tamed, who became greatly attached to a small terrier. And when after some time it

died, the lion fell quite ill, and seemed ready to die of grief.

THE BEAR.

THERE are many kinds of bears, of which the brown bear is the most common. Bears are found in Europe, Asia, and America. Some say in Africa; but it is commonly thought some other beast has been mistaken by travellers in that country for a bear. This picture shows you the white or sea bear, which lives in the frozen regions of the North, and feeds on fish and seals. It is

a large animal, sometimes seven feet in length, and is covered with beautiful silvery white fur, tinged with yellow. The sole of its foot also is covered with long hair, in order that it may walk firmly on the slippery ice. The female white bear hides herself and her young ones, during the winter months, in a hole which she digs in the snow. She always leaves a small opening at the top of her snow house to let in fresh air. She is very fond of her young ones, and will die in their defence. When they come out of their winter retreat, if the little ones are too young to walk or swim far, their good mother carries them on her back.

The American black bear is rather small,

but is much valued for its skin. This bear in the winter scratches itself a hole under a fallen tree, and lying there suffers the snow to form a heap over its body. This keeps it warm; but its breath makes an opening in the snow, which betrays it to the hunter who is in search of bears, and he soon kills the poor fellow for his skin.

There is a little brown bear in India called the honey bear; but all bears love honey, and I dare say you know the fable of the greedy bear who upset the hive that he might feed as he liked. In the north of Europe there is the brown bear; and the Laplanders have a sort of reverence for it. There was a proverb amongst the Norwegians, that it had

the strength of ten men, and the sense of one, and they do not seem to like calling it by its proper name of bear, lest it should be angry with them and eat some of their flocks, but they speak of it as the old man with a fur cloak. Bears can climb trees like cats, and the female often makes her nest amongst the branches of a tall tree, to preserve her young ones from the attack of wolves and other creatures. Formerly bears were sometimes taught to dance by the cruellest torment, and then led about the streets by showmen; but I am glad to say such things are not now to be seen.

Children who visit the Zoological Gardens must be very careful not to go too near the

bear-pit, or dens, for the white bear can bite very fiercely, and I have heard that a little child once fell from its nurse's arms down amongst the brown bears, who at once tore it to pieces.

THE WOLF.

The wolf is found in every quarter of the world, and was once so common even in England that our January was called by the Anglo-Saxons *Wolf-monat*, or *month*; because there was more danger of persons being eaten by wolves then, than at any

other time. They also named some of their kings from this animal, as Ethelwolf—the noble wolf, &c.; but I am glad to say there are no longer any wolves here. The last in these islands was killed in Ireland, in 1710. The wolf is a very savage creature, very strong and powerful, and so fond of the taste of blood that he is said to kill and eat his own companions if they happen to be wounded, or even spotted with the blood of their prey. They generally hunt in packs, or numbers, and approach their victim in the form of a half-circle, which they draw closer and closer until they have secured it. They will in this way close round a herd of deer, if feeding near a precipice, in the north, until

the poor frightened creatures, in trying to escape, force one another over the steep, and are killed. Then the wolves go down and feed upon their bodies. A gentleman named Dr. Richardson, who was travelling in the north, seated himself near the edge of a precipice, when he heard a rustling noise. Turning to see what was the matter, to his horror he perceived nine white wolves gathering nearer and nearer to him, in order to force him over the dreadful rock. Knowing that wolves, in spite of their ferocity, are, like other animals, rather in awe of man, he suddenly jumped up and went towards them, when they drew back and allowed him to pass safely through.

The general colour of the wolf is a sort of brownish yellow; but in the north almost all the animals are white.

Wolves are rather like dogs in shape; indeed, the Esquimaux dogs are thought to be a kind of half-tamed wolf, but they are not like the dog in any other respect. It is almost impossible to tame them, and even if they are taken very young, and brought up like domestic animals, their native wildness will break out as they grow older; but there is a story told of one wolf that became fondly attached to his master, who, when he was obliged to go abroad, presented his pet to the menagerie of animals at Paris. The parting was sadly felt by the poor wolf; and when at

the end of a year or two his master came back and visited the menagerie, even before he could see him, the wolf remembered his voice and leaped with joy. After three years the gentleman came again, and the poor wolf showed every sign of excessive affection and delight. And when again separated from his beloved master he fell very ill, refused food, and could scarcely be restored to health. Nor would he ever attach himself again to any one, however kindly they might attend upon him.

The skin of the wolf, like that of the fox, is the only part of him that can be of the least use to man.

THE ZEBRA.

This beautiful creature is very wild; and it is almost impossible to tame him so as to be really serviceable to man. He is better shaped than the ass, whom he resembles in size; and his skin is very pretty, being covered with a white fur, which has bright black or brown stripes, very regularly marked over it. He has long moveable ears tipped with black, and a tufted tail, while even his thick mane is adorned with stripes. Zebras live in the mountains of Africa, but often

come down into the plains, and range over the desert, where, mixed with troops of gnoos, camelopards, antelopes, and other beautiful creatures, amongst whom the ostrich glides along stretching its long neck, and flapping its wings, they must present a most brilliant appearance.

The zebra was known to the Romans, who called it hippotigris or horse-tiger. I can tell you very little about the zebra, as, from its wild nature, it is rarely tamed, and then so imperfectly as to prevent its being used as a domestic animal, though its extreme beauty would make it a very desirable beast for riding or draught.

It is said to be very cleanly in its habits,

loving fresh straw and dried leaves to sleep upon. Its voice is very peculiar; and the only sound to which it can be at all compared, is that of a post-horn.

Hottentots eat the flesh of zebras; but we should not like it. They are, however, generally killed for the sake of their brilliant skins, which, with their graceful form, make them the most beautiful of quadrupeds.

THE TIGER.

This is a most beautiful creature. His skin is yellowish-red, with stripes of jet black; his form is elegant, and all his motions graceful as those of a cat; but his outward beauty is no index to his character. He is cruel and blood-thirsty, killing his victims, as often as not, for the mere pleasure of putting them to death.

The tiger is found in Africa and Asia; the largest are in Hindostan, where they abound amongst the long grass or jungle,

and often grow to the height of five and the length of ten feet. The claws and teeth of the tiger are very large and strong, and he seizes his prey much as a cat does a mouse, springing upon it suddenly from a short distance. The tiger does not roar, but makes an ugly howling cry, loud and violent.

I cannot tell you that he is of any use to man, either before or after his death. On the contrary, his approach is dreaded and guarded against as that of a most ferocious enemy. The beautiful skin is, however, sometimes used for driving-rugs and table-covers, and you may have seen it occasionally hanging up in the furriers' shops.

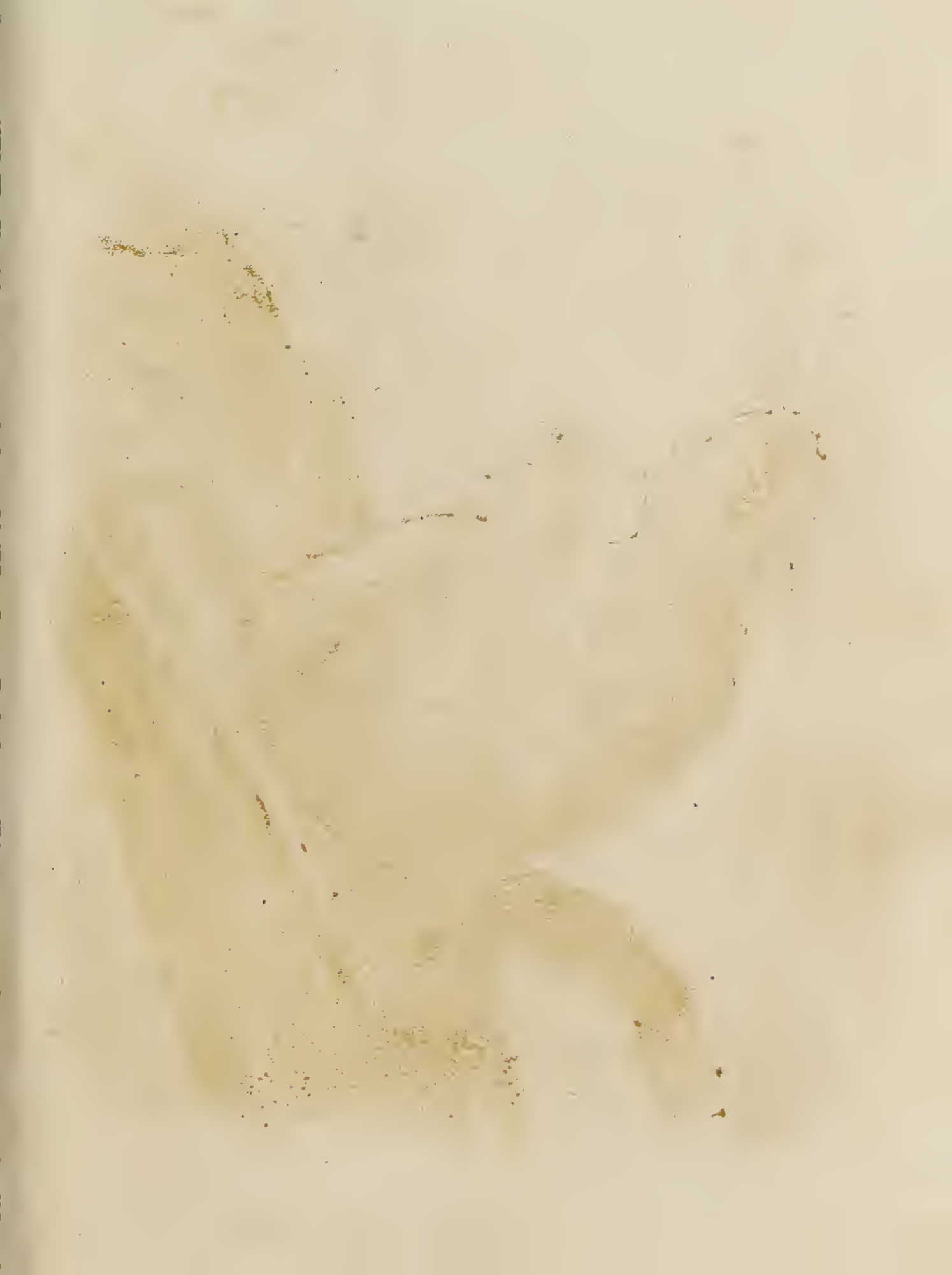
Some of the Brahmins, or priests in India,

have a wonderful power over the tigers which infest their country. They tame and subdue them completely, sometimes. We are told of one who used to live in a hut in a wilderness haunted with tigers; he used to go daily to the neighbouring town accompanied by a tame tiger, and the people were so well assured of his power over the savage beast that they never showed any signs of fear.

One of the favourite amusements amongst the native princes of India is witnessing fights between tigers and elephants or buffaloes. In a wild state the tiger often attacks the elephant by trying to spring upon his trunk; but the elephant, who would be quite helpless if his trunk were injured, wisely

curls it upwards and endeavours to catch the tiger in his spring, upon his tusks.

I dare say you have often heard the story of the young lady who frightened away a large tiger that was leaping upon her and a party of friends, by quickly opening her parasol in his face. It is a good thing to have presence of mind. Do you think you would have been as courageous and wise?



THE MONKEY.

THERE are so many different kinds of monkeys that it will not be possible for me even to tell you all their names. Do you know the distinctions between apes, baboons, and monkeys? Apes have no tails. Amongst them must be classed the orang and the chimpanzee, or, as they are sometimes called, the red and black orang-otang; for the orang-otang found in India is covered with very red hair, but the chimpanzee from Africa with black. These animals more resemble man

than any other creature, and are said to grow to the height of from five to six feet, and then to be so strong and powerful as even to attack the lion and the elephant, with clubs.

Only very young orangs have been brought to England, and these almost always die during the first winter; but during the few months people have been able to keep and observe them, they have generally been found gentle and docile and very sagacious. Those of western Africa are said to live on the fruits that grow amongst the mountains; and if these fail at any time they go down to the sea-shore and pick up shell-fish. They particularly like a large kind of oyster,

which often lies open on the sands; and they are cunning enough to put a stone between the two shells before they attempt to touch the oyster, lest it should close and hurt their hands.

Baboons have *short* tails, and their heads are more like that of the hog. They have pouches in their cheeks, like monkeys and apes, but larger, in which they store away fruit and other food.

Monkeys are generally smaller than apes and baboons, and are furnished with long tails. They are found in forests and rocky places, and their tails are of great use to them in swinging themselves from place to place or amongst the branches of trees.

Every one knows how fond monkeys are of imitating or copying the ways and actions of people; and many droll stories are told of their tricks. Monkeys are found in America, as well as in Asia and Africa; and in Gibraltar, at the south of Europe, there are numbers to be seen climbing about the great rock, where it is forbidden to any one to harm them. But they are said, by sailors, to have an under-ground or under-sea passage, through which they come from Africa, for they are Barbary apes. Monkeys in India are held in great veneration by the Hindoos, who even provide hospitals for those who are sick amongst them; but although there is a great deal of ignorant superstition mixed

up with such feelings, it is to be wished our more enlightened people shared in some of the humane habits of the Hindoos towards dumb creatures.

Most monkeys in India live in herds or groups of fifty, or more, headed by a chief, who is said to be treated with great respect even when old and infirm. The females are very fond of their young, but keep them in due order, and chastise them when they deserve it. They will carry them down to the river and wash their faces, in spite of loud cries from the little ones.

So many stories are told of monkeys, that I am rather puzzled to know which to tell you; but I think I must choose one that

was told me by my own father, as not having been likely to meet your eyes before. He was dining out one day, when a monkey belonging to the gentleman of the house was brought in with the dessert, and being made much of by the guests, was treated with several glasses of wine, of which monkeys are very fond, until he became half intoxicated.

A few days after my father was at the same house again; and after dinner the monkey made his appearance as usual; but on being offered a glass of wine, he did not show the same eagerness to taste it as before; but after holding it with a thoughtful air in his hand for a minute or two, during which he seemed

to be considering what the effect of his last treat had been, he tapped his head very significantly with his other hand, as much as to say, "I remember how you ached last time," and threw the glass and its contents with great energy under the grate.

THE KANGAROO.

THIS is a most curious creature, is it not? It is very unlike every other animal you have yet seen, and has not been known to us at all for more than eighty-two years, having been first discovered in 1770, by Captain Cook, in

his third voyage. It is found in New Holland; and some have been brought to England, where they thrive well. Now if you look at the picture you will see that the kangaroo is made in a very peculiar way. The fore paws or legs are much smaller than the hind ones, being sometimes not more than twenty inches in length, whilst the hind legs are often three feet and a half long, and very powerful. In consequence of this, the animal does not often walk on all four feet, although it rests upon them when feeding; but it goes upon its hind legs and tail when it wants to move quickly. And by means of this tail, which it uses like a fifth leg, and which is very powerful, it can take tremendous

leaps, even twenty or thirty feet forwards at one spring, and six or eight feet upwards.

The fore feet, though very feeble compared with the hind ones, are yet fitted by nature for the purpose to which the kangaroo puts them, namely, to rest upon whilst browsing. They are furnished with five fingers, and long nails for digging; but the hind feet are armed with stout nails like hoofs, with which it will strike if attacked, as well as with its tail, which is so strong that it can break a man's leg with one blow.

The colour of the kangaroo varies; but that of the largest kind, which I have now been describing, is a dull brown. There are

four or five different kinds of kangaroos, some quite small. The kangaroo is peculiar in another respect. The female has a sort of bag or pouch, in which she carries her young, whilst they are too feeble to walk; and when hunted and hard pressed for her life, so that she is forced to take her little one out of her pouch and throw it aside, it is said to be quite touching to see how mournfully and tenderly she will look back upon it.

Kangaroos are hunted for their flesh, which is extremely good to eat, tasting somewhat like hare. The natives of New Holland depend upon the kangaroo almost more than we do upon our cattle. Its skin serves them

for clothing, the sinews of its strong tail for thread and cord, the teeth to sharpen their spear points, and its body for food. They complain very sadly of the wanton manner in which kangaroos, their only wealth, are often destroyed by colonists, or people who go out to Australia to settle.

I read once of a tamed kangaroo, a great fellow as tall as a man, who was so full of fun that if a stranger came into the room he would go up to him as if to caress him, raising himself on his tail and putting his fore-paws on the visitor's shoulders. Then suddenly thrusting out his hind legs he would give so violent a push that if the person was unprepared he would be thrown heels over

head. He only meant it in play, and to coax for something to eat. When people were at dinner he would come and stand behind their chairs, and give them a little kick now and then, if they did not share their meal with him.

Many other animals in New Holland have a pouch like the kangaroo, and these are called *Marsupial.*

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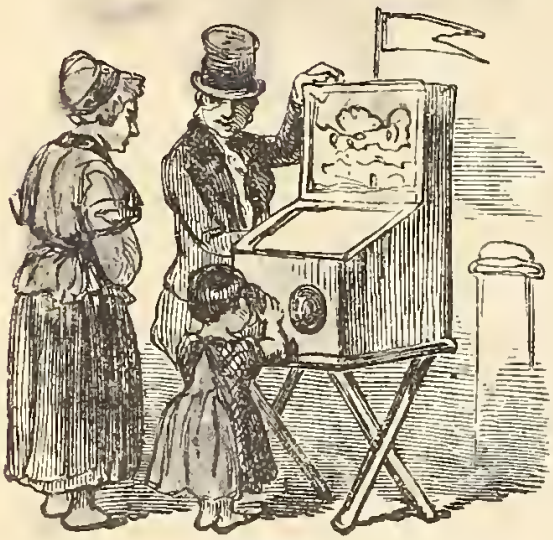

SIGHT.

Q. How many senses are there?

A. Five.

Q. Name them.

A. First, sight, which shows us the colour and form of objects.

Q. Which is the second sense?

A. The second sense is that of hearing, which enables us to judge of sounds.

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